

RE: Sinclair
Broadcasting

To the Commissioners
& staff of the FCC:

Perhaps you are aware of a public uproar over the current controversy involving Sinclair Broadcasting, to whom the Commission had issued 62 broadcast licenses across the United States.

Licenses are issued to broadcast operators on the premise that they shall serve the "Public Interest" in return for use of the Public Airwaves. And the Commission is empowered - and expected - to assure the American public that broadcasters are to comply.

However, it has become abundantly clear that Sinclair is not interested in acting as responsible stewards of the frequencies they broadcast over. Sinclair is obviously serving only their OWN INTERESTS, while demonstrating a CONTEMPT for the Public Interest.

And now, Sinclair made a decision to order their stations to air a documentary designed to slander a presidential candidate only days before the election.

As a citizen living in a community receiving programming from a Sinclair Broadcasting

affiliate by way of
the B-contour signal
emanating from
Sacramento, I
protest this action,
and demand that the
FCC take action.

At the least,
this is a clear
example of the
dangers of media
consolidation.
Further, the obvious
contempt is also
telling of the
damage to the state
of American
Democracy with the
elimination of the
Fairness Doctrine;
and broadcasters are
left unguided on how
to respectably serve
the public interest.

Some even
consider this action
an obscenity that
would exact more
widespread and
irreparable
long-term harm than
the performance this
year's Super Bowl.

It is deplorable
that the FCC would
use the actions
taken against the
airing of the Super
Bowl's half-time
show as if to
demonstrate that it
is still effective,
respected, and
relevant, and that
the Commission is
robustly doing its
job.

Unfortunately, if
the FCC allows
Sinclair to move
forward with an
action like this,
unguided and
unchallenged, will
only show that the
FCC is ineffective
and irrelevant.

Where is the
leadership and
wisdom of the FCC on
this important

issue? It is a
shame.

Sinclair's
actions show why we
need to strengthen
media ownership
rules, not weaken
them. They show why
the license renewal
process needs to
involve more than a
returned postcard
from an entity that
is inclined to give
themselves a nice
report card.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy. Instead
of something
produced at "News
Central" far away,
it's more important
that we see real
people from our own
communities and more
substantive news
about issues that
matter.

As a US citizen,
taxpayer, and
registered voter, I
demand that the FCC
does its JOB to
PROTECT THE PUBLIC
INTEREST.

Sincerely yours,

Clayton J.
Leander, Jr.
Contra Costa
County, CA